

Paper

Meeting Name	DCUSA Panel
Meeting Date	16 July 2014
Paper Title	SIG Headline Report
Purpose of Paper	For Information
Synopsis	This report summarises the meeting headlines and key decisions taken at the DCUSA Standing Issues Group on 27 June 2014. Full minutes of that meeting are available at www.dcusa.co.uk .

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report summarises the meeting headlines and key decisions taken at the most recent meeting of the DCUSA Standing Issues Group (SIG) on 27 June 2014.

2 FEEDBACK FROM THE DCUSA PANEL

- 2.1 The DCUSA SIG noted that the DCUSA Panel had approved their request to hold a face to face meeting to consider the DIF 037 Request For Information (RFI) responses and the advice that the DCUSA SIG may choose to hold a face to face meeting without seeking the permission of the DCUSA Panel.
- 2.2 The DCUSA SIG agreed to hold a face to face meeting to consider the responses to the DIF 039 RFI at its next meeting on the 25 July 2014.

3 DCUSA SIG DIF 040 THE INCLUSION OF A THEFT ASSESSMENT CALCULATOR WITH DCUSA

- 3.1 DCUSA Issue Form (DIF) 040 was submitted by Npower and proposes to supply a simple spreadsheet tool for both electricity and gas to act as a theft assessment calculator. This calculator will assist in the estimating of gas/electricity demand in domestic and non-domestic properties where gas/ electricity theft has been identified. It was proposed that the calculator could be utilised by both network operators and Suppliers.
- 3.2 One member advised that the calculator is proposed to be based upon items such as the average occupancy of the premise, the type of premises (such as flat, semi-detached/ detached house), age of the premises, appliance efficiency ratings resulting in an average fixed template amount for specific types of premises such as 10 KW per week usage for a house. Thus providing a standard and consistent approach across the industry for the estimated usage of units stolen which can be used to justify in court the amount of the electricity bill charged to a thief.

- 3.3 Furthermore, a Dual Fuel calculator with the costs being shared between Parties to the SPAA and DCUSA codes would provide a procurement cost saving and an on-going maintenance and administration cost saving.
- 3.4 Members noted that DNOs had techniques to calculate stolen energy which takes in to account regional variations and therefore this change may not be necessary for Distributors. One member considered that persons stealing electricity will be less likely to moderate their usage and therefore the theft assessment calculator which will be built on average usage is unlikely to reflect the actual electricity stolen at the premises.
- 3.5 A Theft of Gas (ToG) Working Group member suggested that the cost to update the calculator was considered to be approximately £38,500 and the costs to review the data the calculator is built on every three years is expected to cost £4,000 each time. Members considered that the costs once spread across all Parties may be negligible and that a Working Group should investigate this option further. Members considered that the legal text for the theft assessment calculator would best sit under DCUSA Schedule 23 Revenue Protection Code of Practice Appendix 7 Assessment of Unrecorded Units.

4 TWO VERSIONS OF THE DRAFT PUBLIC FACING THEFT COP

- 4.1 Members considered two versions of the draft public facing Theft Code Of Practice (CoP) submitted by the Supply Point Administration Agreement (SPAA) ToG Working Group to also act as a public facing DCUSA Schedule 23 Revenue Protection CoP. Members agreed to provide comments on both versions by close of business on the 04 July 2014.

5 DIF 039 'REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF SEALS BY MOCOPA OPERATIVES' RFI

- 5.1 Members agreed amendments to the DIF 039 Request For Information (RFI) questions and for the RFI to be issued to DCUSA Contract Managers until the 18 July 2014.

6 REVIEW OF DIF 037 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION COLLATED RESPONSES

- 6.1 Members reviewed the responses to the DIF 037 RFI. DIF 037 raises a request for the temporary de-energisation of electricity supplies to domestic and similar premises to be allowed by electricians in order to enable electricians to carry out certain electrical installation work safely through the introduction of an authorisation scheme.
- 6.2 Members noted that the information of 400,000 - 500,000 consumer unit changes per year with 90% of those consumer unit changes not being undertaken legally was data taken from the competent person scheme and based on a poll of 600,000 electricians.
- 6.3 Members discussed the funding arrangements for the scheme and agreed that a minimum electrician registration threshold would need to be determined that would cover a list of costs such as:
- a significant audit scheme;

- the public liability insurance (estimated at 2 million pounds);
- electrician training in regards to knowledge of certain types of cut outs;
- the buying of cut out seals, sealing pliers etc; and
- a section on compliance and enforcement would need to be drafted which would
 - punish electricians for not complying with the rules of the scheme;
 - put a process in place to prevent a registered electrician from sharing the sealing pliers with other electricians; and
 - put a process in place to disallow the registering of an electrician who is determined to be a risk.

6.4 One member suggested that the onus to ensure that the electrician is adequately trained could be placed on MOCOPA. Members asked the chair of MOCOPA whether it would be possible for him to provide a MOCOPA auditing overview and the kind of costs for a similar level to the MOCOPA model. Members considered this model to be the easiest model to utilise and to extend for any insurance considerations.

6.5 One attendee agreed to notify the proposer of the feedback from the DCUSA SIG discussions.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DIF 041 DNO Work Upon Meter Terminals, Meter Tails And Customer Tails Following Work Upon Or Change Of DNO Service Equipment

7.1 Members considered DIF 041 which references a court case which highlighted the elevated risk in relation to the DNO replacement of the service cut out where the meter terminals are disturbed despite best endeavours. It was recommended that all metering terminals are tightened on-site and that further solutions needed to be provided to enable the DNO to discharge its statutory and licence obligations to replace and maintain its systems. Members considered that the suggestion that DNOs work with Meter Operators (MoPs) to ensure that a site can be made safe may be one of the solutions to this issue.

7.2 The DCUSA SIG questioned what type of key was referred to in regards to the smart meter access in the DIF 041 drafting. One member agreed to request the clarification from the proposer.

7.3 The next DCUSA SIG meeting will be convened at 10:00am on 31 July 2014.

8 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 The Panel is invited to:

- NOTE the report